

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 886

By Todd

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Herman Wright Cox, Jr.
of Collierville.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Herman Wright Cox, Jr.; and

WHEREAS, Herman Wright Cox, Jr. was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Cox served with acumen and alacrity as the Mayor of Collierville for 24 years and spent a total of 40 years on the Board of Mayor and Alderman, during which time he earned the respect of the citizens of his community, Shelby County, and the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, born in his beloved Collierville on July 30, 1922, Mr. Cox came into this world in the home built by his maternal grandfather, W.W. McGinnis; and

WHEREAS, Herman Wright Cox, Jr. was a graduate of Collierville High School and attended the University of Memphis; after leaving school he went to work with his grandfather in 1939 at McGinnis Oil Company, where he would remain employed for the rest of his life; and

WHEREAS, a member of the "Greatest Generation", Herman Wright proudly served his country during World War II and was called to duty on October 29, 1942; and

WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Herman Wright Cox, Jr. served as a Communication Chief and a Combat Infantryman in the Southern Philippines and the Western Pacific Theater; he received the World War II Victory Ribbon, Good Conduct Medal, American Theater Ribbon, AP Theater Ribbon with two Bronze Service Stars, one Bronze Arrowhead, Philippine Liberation Ribbon, and a Bronze Star; and

WHEREAS a man with a deep sense of purpose and the courage of his convictions, Mr. Cox humbly offered himself for public service and was elected as an Alderman for the city of Collierville in 1959 and would serve his hometown for the next 40 consecutive years; and

WHEREAS, elected Mayor of Collierville for six terms during his career, Herman Wright Cox, Jr. became a legendary figure in Tennessee and was fondly known by all as “The People’s Mayor” with a reputation for integrity, accessibility, and the common touch of a true gentleman; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Cox worked tirelessly to improve the quality of life for all the citizens of Collierville and was respected and admired by his peers across Tennessee for ensuing a rapidly expanding community with the necessary infrastructure and accompanying business development always maintaining the “small-town” feel of home and family; and

WHEREAS, Herman Wright Cox, Jr. was an active and devout member of the Collierville United Methodist Church, which he served faithfully for over 70 years as a member of the Church Council and Choir; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Cox was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Herman Wright Cox, Jr. enjoyed the loving companionship of his beloved wife, Peggy Loftin Cox, and was the proud father of Melinda Cox Hall, Bill Cox, Wright Cox, Jim Cox, Robert Cox, and Julia Panagon, Ann Marie Thompson, and William Loftin; and

WHEREAS, Herman Wright Cox, Jr. leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, seldom does a gentleman of Mr. Cox's stature walk among us, and it is most appropriate that we should specially remember his life of purpose and commitment to the greater good of his community and to this State; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Herman Wright Cox, Jr., reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Herman Wright Cox, Jr.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.